

MARTIN RAY WINERY  
2000 MERLOT  
DIAMOND MOUNTAIN VINEYARD



TECHNICAL NOTES

*Varietals:* 85% Merlot  
15% Cabernet Sauvignon

*Harvest Date:*

October 20, 2000

*Brix at Harvest:* 24.4°

*Alcohol:* 13.6%

*Total Acidity:* 0.63

*pH:* 3.71

*Quantity Produced:* 250 cases

*“A mountain vineyard is the most beautiful site on earth.”* —MARTIN RAY

THE VINEYARDS

The 2000 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot comes from the spectacular Diamond Mountain Vineyard, which rises between 1800 and 2100 feet from the Northwest Napa Valley. The vineyards nestle on a northeastern slope, where mornings are typically fog-free and brisk, with northwesterly winds continuing to cool the vineyards throughout the growing season. Volcanic soils, superior sun exposure and excellent drainage result in small, intense, full-flavored berries; producing some of Napa Valley’s most sought-after Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

VINTAGE NOTES

The 2000 vintage had a perfect start with bud break in the middle of March. The weather throughout the spring and early summer remained pleasant, and then July hit with a record heat wave. Cold temperatures slowed things down a bit in August and late September brought cooler weather, which allowed the complexities of the fruit to develop. Fortunately this was followed by warm weather, which completed the ripening process. The long harvest blessed our winemaker with additional time to concentrate on ripening the fruit to its peak maturity.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES

The winemaking methods used in creating our Merlot are the same as those perfected by the legendary Martin Ray over sixty years ago. Although labor intensive, these traditional techniques produce distinctly enhanced flavors and texture in our wines. The exceptional grape growing conditions on Diamond Mountain are clearly showcased in the beautiful character and richness of this outstanding Merlot. The wine begins with exquisite aromas of exotic spices and toasty oak. The bright and lively palate is perfectly enhanced by a framework of rich, ripe tannins balanced with tantalizing blackberry, ripe plum, and black currant fruit. The full flavors follow through to a long-lasting, elegant finish. The 2000 Martin Ray Diamond Mountain Merlot was made to age and will be enjoyed for many years to come.